# You know that sports car you always wanted?

A comparative look at Japanese sports cars from the 1980s and '90s

The late '80s and '90s were a great time rival's cars. Advances such as ABS, TCS, them. They had lines that screamed for for sports cars. This was the golden age turbochargers, on-the-fly adjustability, you to drive them hard, as they were of vehicle design, when manufacturers and many other bells and whistles were intended to be driven. It wasn't like being introduced to the public for the today where every other car on the road were just coming into tune with what drivers really wanted. They wanted a great first time, and it was all incredibly exciting. looks nearly identical. This was a time combination of technology, power, and But the Japanese were separating when safety and emissions regulations handling. During this time, the Japanese themselves from other developers in that didn't weigh down vehicles, and they never forgot to inject the true passion developers were free to make cars that were coming out with vehicles that included as many gadgets and technological for driving that needed to be communicated were truly fun to drive. The cars below advances as they could throw at their cars directly to the drivers of their vehicles. were all prime examples of what true in an attempt to woe their target audiences The body designs were so beautiful that affordable Japanese sports cars were, at into purchasing their cars above their when you saw them, you would't forget the peak of their designs.

## "What is power, without control?" -Keiichi Tsuchiya

Nissan						Toyota				
240sx/180sx/Silvia S13	240sx/Silvia S14	Skyline GTR R32	Skyline GTR R34	300zx Z32	Pulsar GTI-R N14	Supra Mark III	Supra Mark IV	MR2 W20	Trueno AE86	Celica GT-Four ST185
Production Dates: 1989-1998	Production Dates: 1994-1998	Production Dates: 1989-1994	Production Dates: 1999-2002	Production Dates: 1989-2000	Production Dates: 1990-1994	Production Dates: 1986-1993	Production Dates: 1993-2003	Production Dates: 1989-1999	Production Dates: 1983-1987	Production Dates: 1989-1993
Power: 205 hp	Power: 217 hp	Power: 320 hp	Power: 332 hp	Power: 300 hp	Power: 227 hp	Power: 276 hp	Power: 320 hp	Power: 200 hp	Power: 130 hp	Power: 222 hp
Curb Weight: 2700 lb	Curb Weight: 2762 lb	Curb Weight: 3153 lb	Curb Weight: 3152 lb	Curb Weight: 3373 lb	Curb Weight: 2624 lb	Curb Weight: 3389 lb	Curb Weight: 3417 lb	Curb Weight: 2758 lb	Curb Weight: 2072 lb	Curb Weight: 3175 lb
0-60 mph Time: 6.18 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 6.30 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 5.6 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 4.9 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 5.6 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 5.4 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 6.2 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 4.6 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 6.1 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 8.5 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 7.5 Seconds
Engine: 2.0L Turbo I4	Engine: 2.0L Turbo I4	Engine: 2.6L Twin-Turbo I6	Engine: 2.6L Twin-Turbo I6	Engine: 3.0L Twin-Turbo V6	Engine: 2.0L Turbo I4	Engine: 2.5L Twin-Turbo I6	Engine: 3.0L Twin-Turbo I6	Engine: 2.0L Turbo I4	Engine: 1.6L I4	Engine: 2.0 L Turbo I4
Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive
The first generation of Nissan's S13 chassis can be divided into two distinct versions, both having the sporting advantage of rear wheel drive standard. There was the fastback, and coupe. The S13 is a popular car in the sport of drifting due to its long wheelbase, low cost, ample power, and abundant aftermarket support.	•	The R32 GT-R was introduced in 1989 and continued the very successful racing heritage of its famous GT-R predecessors with several championship titles. This car was built to fit Japanese Group A racing specifications, and was only made for the street because the rules demanded its street homologation.	overhang was reduced. A new feature on the R34 GT-R was an LCD multifunction display on the center of the dash, which showed live readings of engine and vehicle statistics. R34s came	winning <i>Motor Trend</i> 's "Import Car of the Year" in 1990 as well as "One of the Top Ten Performance Cars ". <i>Road &amp;</i> <i>Track</i> names the 300ZX Turbo "One of the Ten Best Cars in the World", and <i>Car and Driver</i> adds it to their 10 Best for the seven years in which it was in	order to enter the WRC under Group A rules. The body is largely the same as the standard N14 three-door model, but distinguished by the large rear wing	options available for the Supra included 3-channel ABS (Anti-lock Brakes) and a suspension system which gave the driver two settings to control the damper rates. The car did not win as	redesigned, with rounded body styling and featured the new 2JZ-GTE engine, rated at 320hp. Toyota took measures to reduce the weight of the current model compared to the previous	to both the Ferrari 348 and the Ferrari F355. Despite this, the new look was	street racers in Japan. Low speed,	Championships in 1993 and 1994. The Full-time 4WD system in the GT-Four has a viscous coupling
Honda						Mitsubishi				
NSX	Civic Type R EK9	Integra Type R DC2	Prelude Type S BB6	Civic CRX SiR EF8	<i>S2000</i>	Eclipse GSX 1G	Eclipse GSX 2G	3000GT	FTO	Evolution IV
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Production Dates: 1990-2005	Production Dates: 1997-2000	Production Dates: 1995-2001	Production Dates: 1997-2001	Production Dates: 1987-1991	Production Dates: 1999-2003	Production Dates: 1989-1994	Production Dates: 1995-1999	Production Dates: 1990-2001	Production Dates: 1994-2000	Production Dates: 1996-1998
Power: 290 hp	Power: 185 hp	Power: 195 hp	Power: 220 hp	Power: 157 hp	Power: 247 hp	Power: 195 hp	Power: 210 hp	Power: 320 hp	Power: 200 hp	Power: 276 hp
Curb Weight: 2976 lb	Curb Weight: 2400 lb	Curb Weight: 2380 lb	Curb Weight: 2882 lb	Curb Weight: 2139 lb	Curb Weight: 2840 lb	Curb Weight: 3095 lb	Curb Weight: 3269 lb	Curb Weight: 3780 lb	Curb Weight: 2668 lb	Curb Weight: 2976 lb
-60 mph Time: 4.9 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 6.6 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 6.2 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 6.3 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 7.2 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 5.7 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 6.4 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 7 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 5.6 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 7.1 Seconds	0-60 mph Time: 5.4 Seconds
Engine: 3.0L V6	Engine: 1.6L I4 SR20DET	Engine: 1.8L I4	Engine: 2.2 L I4	Engine: 1.6L I4	Engine: 2.0L I4	Engine: 2.0L Turbo I4	Engine: 2.0 L Turbo I4	Engine: 3.0L Twin-Turbo V6	Engine: 2.0L V6	Engine: 2.0L Turbo I4
Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Front-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Front-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Front-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Front-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: Front-Wheel Drive	Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive
Honda intended the NS-X to meet or exceed the performance of the Ferrari 448, while still offering a lower price-tag. The bodywork had been made after studying the 360 degree isibility of an F-16 fighter jet. Its lesign showcased several of Honda's utomotive technologies, many derived from its F1 motor-sports program.	The Type-R's hand-ported B16B engine boasted one of the highest power output per liter of all time for a naturally-aspirated engine with 185 hp from 1.6L of engine displacement. The monocoque chassis was strategically seam welded to improve rigidity. A front helical limited-slip differential, and close ratio gearbox were also installed.	strengthened chassis, and a helical LSD, the DC2 Integra Type R had significantly improved performance and handling relative to the	elegant. Honda dubs this, "Intelligent	The CRX has a shorter wheelbase and is generally smaller than the standard Civic. This makes it lighter and sharper; the vehicle feels nice in transitions. The VTEC engine used Variable Valve Timing to provide increased power in the high rev range, while still allowing low fuel consumption and better idling at low RPMs.	electrically assisted steering and integrated roll hoops. The compact and lightweight engine was mounted entirely behind the front axle which allowed the S2000 to achieve a 50:50 weight distribution and lower rotational inertia. An	was sold as an entry-to mid-level	the market focus of the 1G car, but had a major update in styling and had different engines between trim levels. New to the line was a convertible model, the Spyder. The turbocharged motor was a more powerful version of	The 3000Gt showed Mitsubishi's obsession with technology. It came with electronically adjustable suspension, four-wheel drive, four-wheel steering, a limited-slip differential, and front and rear spoilers that extend at 50 mph and retract at 30. Even the exhaust note could be customized with the flip of a switch.	The Mitsubishi FTO, is a front engined, front-wheel drive coupe. Upon its debut it won the Car of the Year Japan award for 1994–95. FTO stands for "Fresh Touring Origination". The name recalls the Galant FTO coupé of 1971, one of the company's first sports cars. The only body style was a 2-door coupé, and all FTOs were front wheel drive.	mounted for better weight distribut with a limited-slip differential at the front and rear. Mitsubishi's new Act Yaw Control appeared as a factory option, which used steering, throttle input sensors, and g sensors to

### Mazda

Miata MX-5 NA



*RX*-7*FC* 

Production Dates: 1989-1999 Power: 133 hp Curb Weight: 2100 lb 0-60 mph Time: 7.5 Seconds Engine: 1.8L I4 Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive

The design credo Mazda has used across the three generations of the MX5's development was the phrase

Jinba ittai (人馬一体) which translates loosely into English as "rider (jin) horse special toe control hubs which were (ba) as one body (ittai)". The car was designed to be as compact and as light as possible while meeting global safety

requirements.

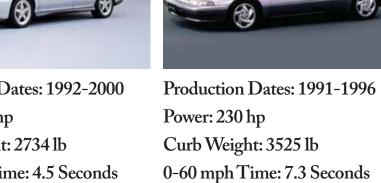
Production Dates: 1986-1991 Power: 200 hp Power: 276 hp Curb Weight: 2870 lb 0-60 mph Time: 6.2 Seconds Engine: 1.3L Turbo Rotary Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive Mazda introduced Dynamic Tracking Suspension System in the 2nd generation RX-7. The revised independent rear suspension incorporated Japan. The FD made Car and Driver's capable of introducing a limited degree of rear steering under cornering loads. Mazda also introduced Auto Adjusting one of the finest handling and best Suspension (AAS). balanced cars of all time.

Production Dates: 1992-2000 Production Dates: 1992-2002 Power: 280 hp Curb Weight: 2789 lb Curb Weight: 2734 lb 0-60 mph Time: 5.2 Seconds 0-60 mph Time: 4.5 Seconds Engine: 1.3L Twin-Turbo Rotary Engine: 2.0L Turbo H4 Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive Drivetrain: Rear-Wheel Drive The FD's 13B-REW was the first-ever The STI models were upgraded from mass-produced sequential twin turbocharger system to export from Ten Best list for 1993 through 1995, and The STI versions of the Impreza were immensely successful in rallies and was Motor Trend's Import Car of the Year in 1993. It was regarded as being popular among street racers, but were

Subaru

Impreza WRX STI GC8

only sold in the Japanese market.

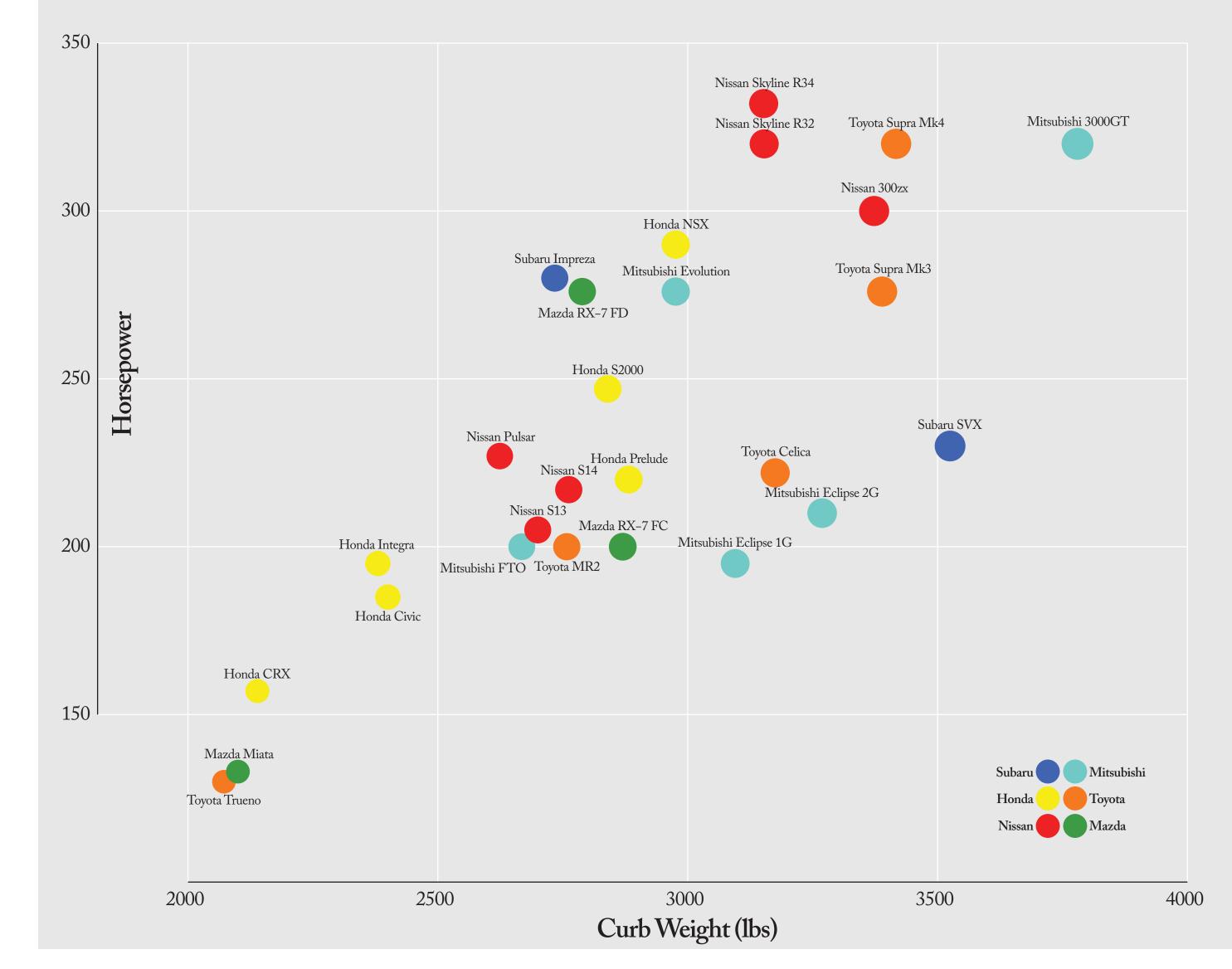


Alcyone SVX

0-60 mph Time: 7.3 Seconds Engine: 3.3L H6 Drivetrain: All-Wheel Drive The SVX came equipped with only one the standard WRX in many categories, engine variant, the EG33 model including blueprinted performance-tuned 3.3-liter boxer horizontally opposed engines, transmissions, and suspensions. flat-six. This engine was the largest engine produced by Subaru for its passenger cars at the time. All versions of the SVX sold were equipped with

automatic transmissions, and four-wheel steering was optional.

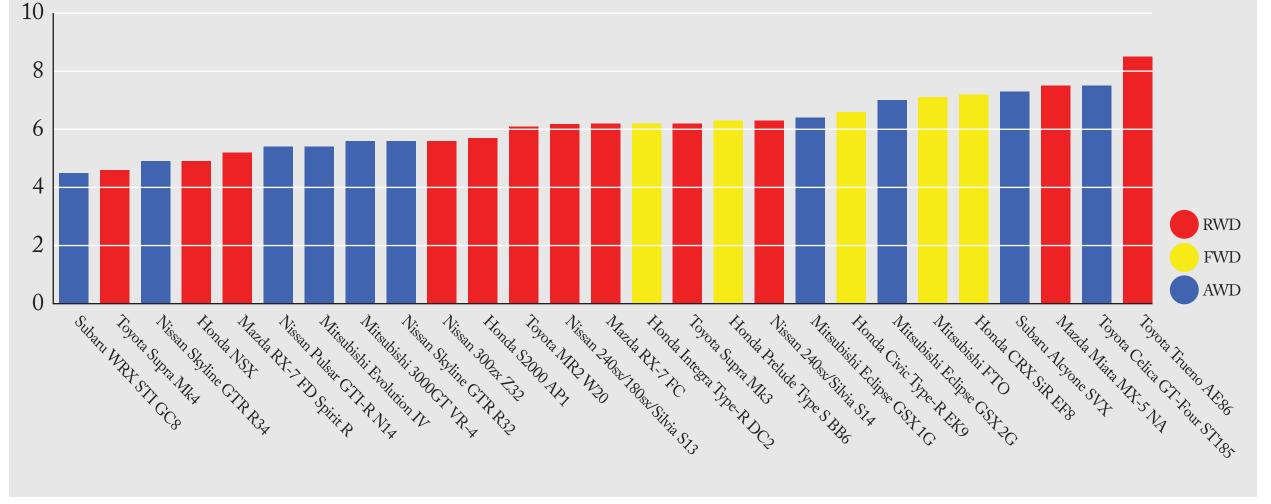
#### Vehicles by Horsepower and Weight



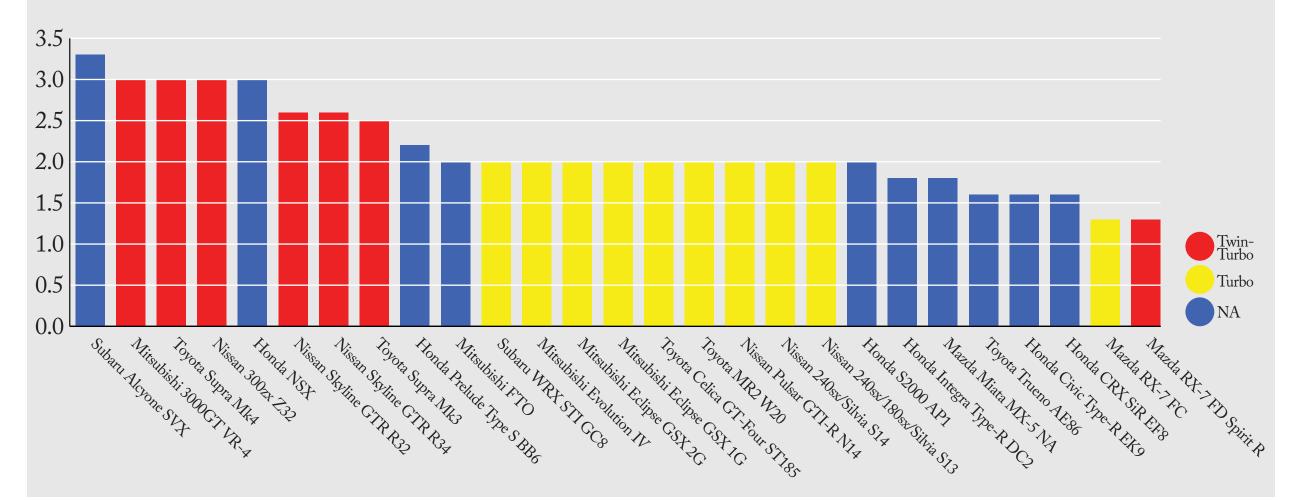
#### Vehicles by Their 0-60 MPH Times (in Seconds) and Drivetrain

*RX*-7*FD* 

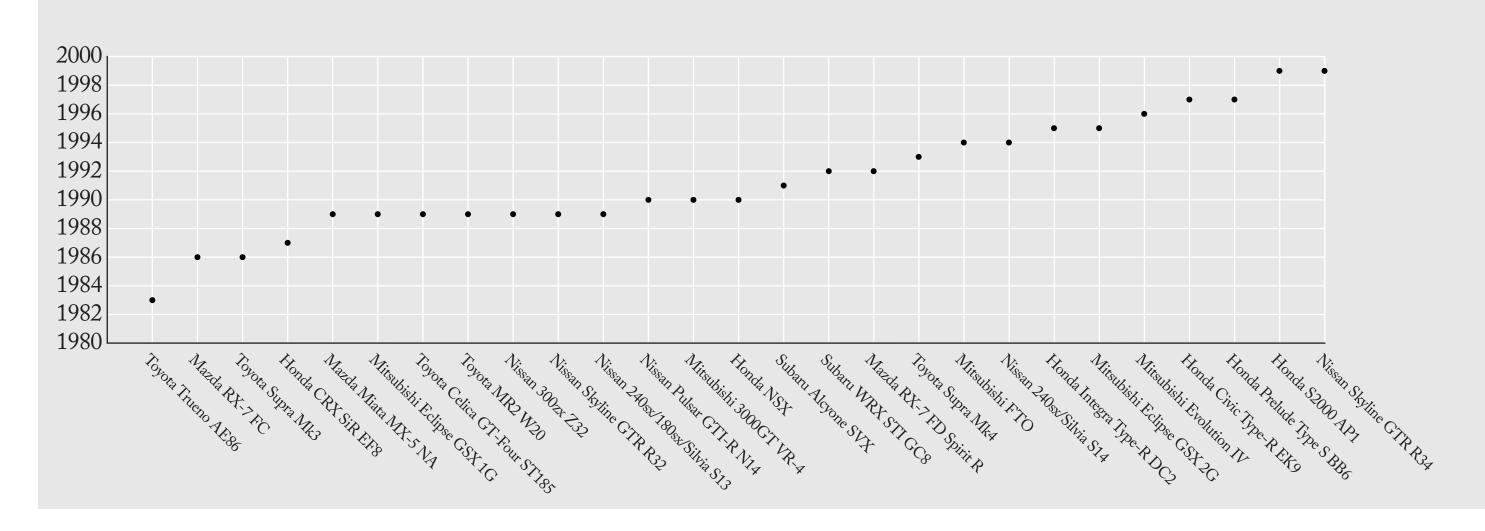
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Vehicles by Their Engine Size (in Liters) and Aspiration Type



Vehicles by Their Release Date





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